

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9, 12-21 and 23-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6-7, 10-12, 14-15, 18, 21 and 26 are amended, claim 31 is added and claims 22 and 27-30 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant sincerely acknowledges the Office Action's indication at claims 22 and 27 define patentable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

A. The Office Action objects to claim 15 for informalities. Applicant respectfully submits the above amendments obviate the grounds for the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 15 is respectfully requested.

B. The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 6-14, 26 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,953,339 to Baldwin et al. (hereinafter Baldwin). The Office Action rejects claims 5, 15-21 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Baldwin. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to claims 21 and 26, Applicant respectfully submits that allowable subject matter has been incorporated. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits claims 21 and 26 and claims depending therefrom define patentable subject matter.

With respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Baldwin does not teach or suggest at least features of a first converter configured to generate a first AAL5 type ATM cell from a received AAL2 type ATM cell, a second converter directly connected to the first converter and configured to generate an output AAL2 ATM cell from the first AAL5 type ATM cell and combinations thereof as recited. In contrast, Applicant respectfully submits that as shown in Figure 9 of Baldwin, TA 705-1 is connected to an ATM switch 710 that is connected to a TA 715-1 to output ATM AAL-2 packets from received ATM AAL-2 packets. See column 8, line 31-column 9, line 27 of Baldwin.

With respect to claim 7, Applicant respectfully submits that Baldwin does not teach or suggest at least features of a first converter, a second converter directly connected to the first converter, wherein the first converter includes an AAL2 receiving unit and an AAL5 transmitting unit connected to the AAL2 receiving unit, and wherein the second converter includes an AAL5 receiving unit and an AAL2 transmitting unit connected to the AAL5 receiving unit and combinations thereof as recited.

With respect to claim 12, Applicant respectfully submits that Baldwin does not teach or suggest at least features of first through fourth converters, wherein the second converter has an input directly connected to the output of the first converter and the third converter, and wherein the fourth converter has an input directly connected to an output of the first converter and the third converter and combinations thereof as recited.

With respect to claim 18, Applicant respectfully submits that Baldwin does not teach or suggest at least features of first through third multiplexers and combinations thereof as recited. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that Baldwin does not teach or suggest any modification to its disclosure that would result in features variously recited and combinations thereof in claims 1, 7, 12 and 18.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21, 26, 1, 7, 12 and 18 define patentable subject matter. Claim 15 defines patentable subject matter for at least reasons similar to claim 21.

Claims 4-6, 8-11, 13-14, 16-17, 19-20 and 23-25 depend from claims 7, 12, 15, 18 and 21, respectively, and therefore also define patentable subject matter for at least that reason as well as the additionally recited features. Claims 22 and 27-30 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-14, 26 and 28-30 under § 102 and claims 5, 15-21 and 23-25 under § 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Carl R. Wesolowski, at the telephone

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number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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